



# Immigration: Status & Stamps - Online Information Session

## 10th June 2021

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- Introduction to immigration system
  - Seeking Asylum in Ireland
  - Stamps and their entitlements
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### Introduction to immigration

- Immigration in Ireland is dealt with under the Department of Justice at the Immigration Service Delivery department (ISD).
- Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) registers immigration permissions outside of Dublin and the ISD register permissions in Dublin at their Burgh Quay office.
- The Department of Foreign Affairs deal with applications for passports as well as printing travel documents.
- The Border Management Unit deal with customs and immigration at ports of entry such as Dublin airport.
- Non visa required nationals can enter for up to 90 days visa free.
- Visa required nationals MUST have visa before entering state.
- The list of visa required nationals can change frequently and is posted on the Immigration website.
- EU nationals do not need visas to enter or reside in Ireland.
- There are several different permissions based on your reason for staying in Ireland.
- Once granted permission a person must attend their local Immigration office to have their passport stamped (first time registrations) and their IRP (Irish Residence Permit) card issued.
  - Children under the age of 16 do not need to register and will not be given IRP cards.
- From December 2020 a stamp will no longer be placed in a passport when renewing an immigration permission.

## International Protection System

### What does it mean to seek international protection?

- Seeking international protection, often referred to as seeking asylum, is the act of asking for protection. Those who seek asylum have a fear for their lives and are forced to flee from their country of origin.

### Who can apply?

- Any individual can apply for international protection in Ireland, regardless of how they entered the state or the length of time they have resided in the state.
- **All** Asylum seekers in Ireland regardless of point of entry must present themselves physically to the International Protection Office to apply for Asylum. The office is located at:

79-83 Lower Mount St.

Dublin 2

D02ND99

- The applicant will be asked for their reasons for seeking asylum in a short interview.
- Here they will also have their fingerprints taken and cross-checked against the Eurodac system.
- The applicant will also be offered the help of a free state solicitor through the **Refugee Legal Service** and accommodation in Direct Provision if they wish to avail of either.
- They will also have their photo taken to be issued with a TRC (Temporary Residence Certificate) which is a blue card that says they are an asylum seeker.

### Questionnaire

- Once the applicant is accepted into the asylum system, they will be sent their International Protection Application questionnaire. This is where they will write their reasons for seeking asylum, including supporting documentation.
- The questionnaire can be sent either in English or in the applicant's own language. As this questionnaire will form the basis for the applicant's claim for asylum it is very important they receive *legal assistance* to fill it in.

### Interview

- After the applicant completes the questionnaire and submits it to the IPO, they will be called for at least one interview. Their solicitor should help them to prepare for the interview and they will be offered translators.

### Refugee

- Refugees are people who are outside their home country and whose life and/or human rights are seriously at risk because of who they are or what they believe.
- Their governments will not or cannot protect them.

- The 1951 Convention on Refugees (Geneva Convention) states that a refugee is a person who has:
- *“a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail of himself of the protection of that country.”*

### **Subsidiary Protection**

- Subsidiary Protection is an EU level protection status which is recognised within the EU.
- Those who are granted subsidiary protection have a fear of serious harm from the death penalty or execution, torture or inhuman or degrading treatment.
- They fear punishment of a person in his or her country of origin or serious and individual threat to a civilian’s life or person by reason of indiscriminate violence in a situation of international or internal armed conflict.

### **Permission to Remain**

- If refused Refugee status or Subsidiary protection the Minister will look at an application for Permission to Remain in the state.
- This will consider and be based upon Family & personal circumstances as well as the right to respect for your private life & family life.
- The Minister will consider: The nature of connection with Ireland; Humanitarian considerations (illness, special needs etc.) Character & conduct within & outside Ireland; Considerations of national security & public order and any other considerations of the common good.

### **Decision or appeal.**

- After the interview that applicant will receive formal notice in writing of the recommendation of the IPO. A final decision will be issued in writing by the Ministerial Decisions Unit.
- If refused they have the right to appeal the decision.
- If all applications and appeals are refused the applicant will be issued with a notification of deportation.

## Immigration Stamps

- There are several different stamps for those who wish to reside in Ireland based on their individual circumstances.
- Each immigration permission will be issued a corresponding stamp number: i.e. Refugee Status will be granted a stamp 4
- Immigration permissions are usually applied for directly to the Immigration Service Delivery, however there are some instances where local GNIB may grant permissions.

Stamp	Issued to
0	Persons who are permitted to remain in Ireland for a specific, temporary and limited purpose, for example, visiting academics
1	Persons who have received an employment permit, business permission or a working holiday authorisation.
1A	Persons who have permission to reside based on a full time, paid accountancy training (with a named organisation) for a specified period
1G	Persons who have finished your studies in Ireland and have permission to look for employment here under the Third Level Graduate Scheme. Spouses of critical work permit holders.
2	Students who are attending a recognised full-time course of at least one year. They are permitted to work for 20 hours a week during term time and full time during June, July, August, September and December 15 to January 15 inclusive.
2A	Students who are attending a course not recognised by the Department of Education and Skills. They are not permitted to work.
3	Persons who are not permitted to work. This includes visitors; retired people of independent means; ministers of religion and members of religious orders; spouses, civil partners and dependants of some stamp 4 holders.
4	Spouses and civil partners of Irish nationals; Convention and Programme refugees; Subsidiary Protection; Permission/ Humanitarian Leave to Remain; Family Reunification recipients; parents of Irish citizen child granted leave to remain on that basis. They do not need an employment permit or business permission to work.
4 (EU FAM)	Family members of EU nationals who have exercised their right to move to and live in Ireland. They do not need an employment permit or business permission to work.
5	Persons granted permission to remain in Ireland without conditions as to time. The stamp will be valid up to the expiry date on your passport.
6	Persons who are an Irish citizen with dual-citizenship.

### **Work Permits (Stamp 1)**

- Work permits are given to persons who have received an employment permit, business permission or a working holiday authorisation.
- The immigration permission is tied to the employment.
- Those on stamp 1 are not entitled to social welfare payments or medical cards.
- Work permits are dealt with by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.
- Specific income and job requirements.
- May apply for family to join them in the state.
- Reckonable for citizenship.

### **Student permissions (Stamps 1A, 1G, 2, 2A)**

- Stamp 1A is for those on an accountancy training program.
- It is tied to the employment
- Cannot access social welfare payments
- Stamp 1G is for persons who have finished your studies in Ireland and have permission to look for employment here under the Third Level Graduate Scheme.
- They may access employment without restrictions for up to 2 years (depending on education level)
- Cannot access social welfare payments.
- Stamp 2 is for students who are attending a recognised full-time course of at least one year.
- They are permitted to work for 20 hours a week during term time and full time during June, July, August, September and December 15 to January 15 inclusive.
- Cannot access social welfare payments.
- Stamp 2A is for students who are attending a course not recognised by the Department of Education and Skills.
- They are NOT permitted to work.
- Usually for study abroad semester students.

**ALL Student permissions are NOT reckonable for citizenship.**

### **Stamp 3 (dependent family member)**

- This includes visitors; retired people of independent means; ministers of religion and members of religious orders; spouses, civil partners and dependants of some stamp 4 holders.
- Persons who are not permitted to work.
- Not entitled to social welfare payments

- IS reckonable for citizenship.

#### **Stamp 4**

- Spouses and civil partners of Irish national
- Convention and Programme refugees
- Subsidiary Protection
- Permission/ Humanitarian Leave to Remain
- Family Reunification recipients
- Parents of Irish citizen child granted leave to remain on that basis
- Independent Status (DV victims)
- Dependent children of Irish Citizens.
- Can access employment without a work permit.
- May apply for social welfare payments, HAP, medical cards.
- Reckonable for citizenship.
- May be entitled to SUSI and other schemes depending on specific permission.
- May apply for non-eea family members to join them in Ireland (subject to requirements).

#### **Stamp 0, 5, 6**

- Stamp 0 is for Persons who are permitted to remain in Ireland for a specific, temporary and limited purpose, for example, visiting academics. Also for elderly retired persons who live here independently.
- Not allowed to work
- Cannot access social welfare
- Must have private medical insurance
- Stamp 5 (Without Condition as to time WCATT)
- A stamp which can be applied for by those who already possess a stamp 4. Allows for long term residency without the need to continuously renew a stamp.

#### **Stamp 6**

- Persons who are an Irish citizen with dual-citizenship.
- Some states require a stamp in their national passport for dual-citizens.



Irish Residence Permit (IRP Card)→

### Renewals

- Depending on the immigration permission an individual may renew directly at their local immigration or may need to write into ISD for a permission letter again.
- If an individual has a permission letter it will state how to renew the permission in the letter.
- Renewals can be granted for anywhere from 6 months to 5 years depending on the immigration permission.
- From December 2020 renewals will not be stamped in passports (unless a new passport has been acquired since last registration)

### Information sources

- Immigration Service Delivery  
<http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Home>
- International Protection Office  
<http://ipo.gov.ie/>
- Department of Foreign Affairs (passport applications)  
<https://www.dfa.ie/passports/>
- Department of Enterprise, Trade, and Employment  
<https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/>

### Covid-19 Updates

- Local GNIB offices operating on appointment only basis.
- Limerick office registration email: [limerick.registration@garda.ie](mailto:limerick.registration@garda.ie)
- All permissions are currently automatically renewed until 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021.
- Important to renew status now (especially written renewals).

## Contact Doras

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